

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**INVOCATION**

—Elder David White

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—JOY/SHEPHERDS**

Isaiah 35:1-6 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> The desert and the parched land will be glad;

the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;

it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,

the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the LORD,

the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,

steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,

"Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,

he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution he will come to save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened

and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,

and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness

and streams in the desert.

Luke 2:8-13 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

**WORSHIP THROUGH SONG**

*Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART I**

—SCOTTY SMITH

**WITNESSES TO HIS GLORY:**

**Experiencing Christmas in Word, Song, Art and Story**  
***Our Brokenness and God's Provision in Jesus***

**Matt. 1:1-18**

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

**I. WHAT ABOUT THOSE PATRIARCHS AND KINGS!**

**Through Matthew's genealogy we are invited to discover God's covenant faithfulness. God is the Great Promise Keeper.**

**Gen 12:2-3** "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

**Gen 13:15-16** All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. (16) I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

**Gen 17:6-7** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. (7) I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

**Gen 22:17-18** I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, (18) and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed ... **To Whom Are Such Grand Promises Made?**

- **The Patriarchs** – The patriarchs are not presented in Scripture primarily as moral heroes.

**Abraham** – A coward who, to spare his own neck, twice said that his wife, Sarah, was his sister, and who tried to fulfill a promise God made by having an affair with Hagar and giving birth to Ishmael.

**Isaac** – A copy-cat coward, who followed his dad's bad example and, out of fear, said *his* wife, Rebecca, was just his sister!

**Jacob** – A deceiver who lied about his identity to gain a blessing from his dad, Isaac.

- **The Kings:** Matthew selectively presents a list of Israel's rulers, alternating between godly and wicked kings. Godly kings gave birth to sons who became wicked kings, and wicked kings had sons who became godly kings!

**Rehoboam** (bad king) gave birth to **Abijah** (good king).

**Abijah** (good) gave birth to **Asa** (bad king).

**Asa** (bad) gave birth to **Jehoshaphat** (good king).

**Jehoshaphat** (good) gave birth to **Joram** (bad king), and the broken family continued!

## GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### God Is With Us

#### Verse 1

The skies don't seem to be as dark as usual  
The stars seem brighter than  
They've been before

And deep within I feel my soul is stirring  
As though my hope has been restored

The shepherds say they've heard  
The voice of angels  
Confirming rumors spread across the land

That a child protected well  
From Herod's anger  
Is our Father's Son  
And the Son of Man

#### Chorus

Love is Raining Down  
On the world tonight  
There's a presence here  
I can tell  
God is in us, God is for us  
God is with us, Emmanuel

He's the Savior we  
Have been praying for  
In our humble hearts  
He will dwell  
God is in us, God is for us  
God is with us, Emmanuel

#### Verse 2

I fell compelled to tell  
All who will listen  
That peace on earth  
Is not so out of reach  
If we can find grace and mercy  
And he has come to say  
He is all of these

#### Chorus

#### Tag

God is in us, God is for us  
God is with us, Emmanuel  
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Sell the Cow Music/Warner Chappell. Wayne Kirkpatrick.

## MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

— SCOTTY SMITH

### II. WHAT ABOUT THOSE WOMEN AND GENTILES!

Through Matthew's genealogy we are invited to experience God's unparalleled love. **God is the Great Peace Giver.**

#### The Women:

**Tamar** – Judah's daughter-in-law, a Canaanite who pretended to be a prostitute so she could seduce Judah and have children by him. (Genesis 38)

**Rahab** – A Gentile prostitute from Jericho who protected two of the spies Moses sent into Canaan (Joshua 2)

**Ruth** – A Moabitess who married Boaz and became the grandmother of King David. (Ruth 3-4) Moabites were not to be allowed into the congregation of Israel to the 10th generation (Deut. 23:3)

**Bathsheba** – Uriah’s wife, with whom King David committed adultery. (2 Samuel 11:1-27)

**Mary** – A teenager who was pregnant out of wedlock

**What is the intended message? There is no pattern of righteousness in the lineage of Jesus; Adulterers, prostitutes, heroes, Gentiles are all found. There is no ground for boasting in this family tree. Broken people need a perfect Savior. There is no peace apart from the Prince of Peace**

## SONG OF REFLECTION

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3

—SCOTT ROLEY

#### III. WHAT ABOUT ME AND YOU?

In every account of the birth of Jesus, people respond, and the broken respond the most readily and rapidly. Why? Because Jesus came **through** sinners **for** sinners. Never forget the words of promise the angel spoke to Joseph. “She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because **he will save his people from their sins.**” (Matt. 1:21)

## RESPONSE

## BENEDICTION



### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. What had the most impact on you from today’s study of God’s Word and time in his worship?
2. Where do you see yourself in Matthew’s genogram of grace? With whom do you connect in this family tree?
3. How does Matthew’s presentation of Jesus’ genealogy, indeed, present the faithfulness of God? Remind one another of the promises that God made to Abraham (Genesis 12-17), and to David (2 Samuel 7).
4. What is so profound about the inclusion of these particular women in the genealogy? How do these women connect with Mary, the mother of Jesus?
5. Practically speaking, how do we surrender to the kingship of Jesus? How is he to reign in our hearts and through our stories?